

CORPORATE
INVOLVEMENT
IN EDUCATION

TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

teachers

"There will be a talented,
dedicated, and well-prepared
teacher in every classroom."

The Seven Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education

CORPORATE INVOLVEMENT IN EDUCATION

Teachers are the most basic educational resource that communities provide for their children. Plans to increase student learning to improve reading skills, to integrate technology into schools, and to reach high standards will succeed only when we focus on the quality of instruction in all our classrooms. Meeting the challenges of today's classrooms requires that teachers know and do more than ever before. Therefore, they need to be well-prepared and supported throughout their careers.

Businesses need teachers to prepare children for the new economy marked by technological sophistication and increased global competition. Businesses need teachers to help children develop the high-level skills they need to be successful information technology workers. By investing today in children's education and their teachers' preparation, businesses are investing in their own long-term success.

teachers

TEACHER PREPARATION INITIATIVES

Businesses interested in assisting with teacher preparation and quality training programs should consider partnership opportunities with two of the Department's grant programs.

The Teacher Quality Enhancement Grants

This initiative consists of three separate competitive programs:

Partnership Grants are five-year grants that provide funds to partnerships among teacher preparation institutions, schools of arts and sciences, and local school districts in high-need areas. The partners work to strengthen teacher education through activities such as: holding teacher education programs accountable, improving prospective teachers' knowledge of academic content, ensuring that teachers are well-prepared for the realities of the classroom, and preparing teachers to use technology and to work effectively with diverse students.

State Grants are three-year programs that encourage states to improve the quality of their teaching force through activities such as: strengthening their teacher certification standards, implementing reforms that hold institutions of higher education accountable, establishing or strengthening alternative pathways into teaching, and recruiting new high-quality teachers for high-need areas.

Teacher Recruitment Grants are three-year grants that support state and local efforts to recruit highly qualified teachers to reduce shortages in high-need areas. The grants highlight teacher preparation and recruitment of individuals who will meet the specific needs of the community.

"Every community should have a talented and dedicated teacher in every classroom. [We have] an enormous opportunity for ensuring teacher quality well into the 21st century, if we recruit promising people into teaching and give them the highest quality preparation and training."

U.S. Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley

Examples of Businesses Supporting Teacher Preparation

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology Initiative

Preparing future teachers to use technology effectively to improve learning is a major challenge facing our nation's schools of education. If our information technology investments are to pay off in improved education, these future teachers must be technology-proficient educators who know how to use these modern learning tools to help students meet high standards. To meet this urgent need for technology-proficient teachers, the Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology Program supports partnership programs that help future teachers to teach 21st century students.

Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology Partnership (PTTT) Grants. These grants support capacity-building at teacher preparation institutions to ensure that tomorrow's teachers can integrate technology effectively into the curriculum. This initiative includes two types of partnership grants: implementation and catalyst grants.

Implementation grants provide two years of support to partnerships that are implementing full-scale program improvements in the preparation of technology proficient educators.

Catalyst grants provide two years of support to national, regional, and statewide consortia that have the expertise and resources to stimulate large-scale improvements in the development and/or certification of technology proficient educators.

In Boston, Massachusetts, a partnership composed of public and private institutions of higher learning, urban school districts, and business and community partners including the Massachusetts Business Alliance, designed a program to develop more powerful forms of instruction and clinical experiences. The purpose is to provide new teachers with the skills and knowledge they need to teach all urban students to achieve to high levels.

Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi, has a project that represents a statewide Historically Black Colleges and Universities initiative to restructure teacher preparation programs, so that they better train technology-proficient future educators. To accomplish this task, Jackson State will work with two educational organizations, the Mississippi State Department of Education and the Office of the Commissioner of the Institutions of Higher Learning, and one business association, the Public Education Forum of Mississippi, which is a non-profit, non-partisan education policy research group created by business, education, and political leaders in Mississippi. Over 100 businesses are involved in the Forum. The Forum's commitment includes participation with key speakers in a summit on the infrastructure of resources for Mississippi educators; supplying facilities for training purposes; supplying rewards for faculty implementation of technology into their courses; providing important networking and communication opportunities; and providing quality control in the managerial and evaluation components of the project.

The Edu-Tech Connect Project in St. Louis, Missouri, is designed to increase the effective use of technologies in the teacher preparation program at Harris-Stowe State College (HSSC). A consortium consisting of HSSC, a technology magnet school, and business partners, including Bank of America and Micro Age, are collaborating on this project. The business partners provide technical assistance for laptop computers, along with integration services for program management. The purpose is to build capacity at the college among those training teachers, so that there are more technologically proficient teachers for schools serving predominantly at-risk students.

"Better Education Is Everybody's Business"

Secretary of Education Richard W. Riley

If you are interested in learning how
your business can be more involved
with teacher preparation programs,
please contact the Corporate Outreach
Office at (202) 205-8599 or visit
our Web site:
www.ed.gov/offices/OIIA/OIA



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